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5TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4605

November 16, 2021

Brigadier General Richard A. Harrison
Commanding General
Taskforce Pickett
Blackstone, VA 23824

Dear General Harrison:

I am writing today to inquire regarding the conditions facing our soldiers as they await deployment from Fort Pickett.

I recently received concerning reports, photos, and videos from constituents that indicate that our soldiers at Fort Pickett are required to sleep outside in tents because the barracks are occupied by Afghan refugees. These reports indicate that our soldiers are sleeping in temperatures below 40 degrees, have been denied hot meals, and have limited opportunities to shower as they prepare for deployment.

Please provide answers to the following questions about the conditions at Fort Pickett:

1. How many Afghans are currently housed in barracks?
2. How many soldiers are being, or have been, forced to sleep outside in tents as temperatures dip below 40 degrees?
3. Are soldiers being, or have they been, required to eat MREs instead of regular pre-deployment meals?
4. Have female soldiers currently or previously had limited access to showers?
5. Are there other pre-deployment conditions that have been adjusted to accommodate the Afghans on-post?
6. Are Afghans being, or have they been, permitted to photograph soldiers during training or at other times?

Your reply is requested not later than November 18, 2021. Virginians deserve transparency regarding matters that impact the men and women who serve in our National Guard.

Sincerely,



Rep. Bob Good (VA-05)
Member of Congress

CC: Major Benton B. Gammons

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